

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KABUL 04198 231331Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /086 W
-----087827 231810Z /47

R 230728Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8164
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KABUL 4198

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, IN, AF, US
SUBJECT: INDIAN POLICY FOLLOWING THE AFGHAN COUP

1. SUMMARY. A CONVERSATION WITH THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANI-
STAN REVEALED A WIDE COINCIDENCE OF VIEW AND PROVIDED SOME FOOD
FOR THOUGHT FOR THE FORTHCOMING CARTER-DESAI MEETING. END SUMMARY

2. INDIAN AMBASSADOR S.(. SINGH CAME TO SEE ME MAY 22. HE SAID
HE WAS LEAVING A DAY OR TWO FOR CONSULTATIONS IN NEW DELHI ON
THE AFGHAN SITUATION. HE HOPED INDIAN AMBASSADOR BAJAPI IN ISLAM-
BAD WOULD ALSO BE PRESENT IN NEW DELHI, BUT SAID BAJPAI MAY NOT BE
ABLE TO LEAVE ISLAMABAD "BECAUSE OF ALL THE TROUBLES HE IS HAVING
THERE." SINGH SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE UP ITS MIND
ABOUT HOW IT SHOULD SHAPE ITS REGIONAL POLICY FOLLOWING THE
AFGHAN COUP AND IMPLIED THAT HIS TRIP TO NEW DELHI IS SO THAT HE
CAN PARTICIPATE IN A POLICY REVIEW.

3. SINGH AND I ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE FOLLOWING:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KABUL 04198 231331Z

A. EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLE SPLITS IN THE MILITARY OR BETWEEN THE
CIVILIAN AND MILITARY LEADERSHIP AND/OR RIGHT-WING ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPTS, THE TARAKI GOVERNMENT CAN PROBABLY STAY IN POWER WITHOUT
FACING MAJOR RESISTANCE FOR SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR. THEREAFTER, MUCH
WILL DEPEND ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, INCLUDING THE LEVEL OF COM-
PETENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. IN THE
LONGER TERM, THE TRIBAL ETHOS OF AFGHAN CULTURE WILL HAVE TO BE

ASSUAGED BY THE REGIME.

B. THE TARAKI GOVERNMENT'S DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS IS SO GREAT THAT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN IS BOUND TO INCREASE.

C. WESTERN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD KEEP THE DOOR OPEN TO THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT (DRA), SHOULD THE DRA WANT TO AVAIL ITSELF OF WESTERN ASSISTANCE.

4. SINGH SEEMED A BIT SURPRISED WHEN I TOLD HIM OF MY CONVICTION THAT THE KHALQISTS AND THE SOVIETS HAVE FOR A LONG TIME BEEN COMMITTED TO A FORWARD PUSHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN POLICY AND WOULD, IF THE TARAKI REGIME CONSOLIDATES ITSELF, STIR UP THESE ISSUES IN THE FUTURE. I ALSO TOLD HIM -- WHICH HE HAD ALREADY FIGURED OUT FOR HIMSELF -- THAT IMPORTANT U.S. INTERESTS IN THE REGION, FROM INDIA THROUGH THE PERSIAN GULF TO TURKEY, ARE INVOLVED IN THIS SITUATION.

5. SINGH SAID HE RECOGNIZES THAT THE DRA IS USING INDIA TO SOME DEGREE TO PRESERVE ITS NONALIGNED IMAGE. BUT, HE CLEARLY ALSO FEELS IT OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO PROMOTE WARM RELATIONS WITH THE DRA.

6. COMMENT: WHILE OF COURSE DEFERRING TO AMBASSOR GOHEEN'S VIEWS, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT IS IMPORTANT, WHEN THEY MEET, FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO STRESS TO PRIME MINISTER DESAI THAT, IN THIS NEW SITUATION, INDIA SHOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO REASSURE PAKISTAN AND TO BEND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KABUL 04198 231331Z

OVER
BACKWARDS TO OVERCOME PAK SUSPICIONS ABOUT INDIAN POLICY. I AM FULLY AWARE THAT ALL THIS IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME IT BEHOOVES US TO MAKE THE EFFORT.
ELIOT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL04198
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780217-0012
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780530/aaaaayza.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 689b0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2608049
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN POLICY FOLLOWING THE AFGHAN COUP
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, IN, AF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/689b0799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014